

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended, leaving claims 1-8 pending for consideration upon entry of the present Amendment. Support for the amendment can be found in at page 6, lines 12-28 of the specification. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the Amendment.

First, Applicants would like to note that on April 10, 2002, the Examiner had telephone the Applicants' attorney and had orally requested that we elect between the method claims 1-4 and the apparatus claims 5-8. On April 15, 2002, Applicants' attorney orally elected claims 5-8. In this office action, the Examiner has made no mention of this oral restriction and election and has proceeded to examine all of the claims. Thus, because the Examiner has examined all of the claims, Applicants assume that the Examiner determined that the burden was not too great to examine claims 1-8. Accordingly, Applicants have responded to the rejections to all of the claims.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahara (US 6,219,113). For an obviousness rejection to be proper, the Examiner must meet the burden of establishing that all elements of the invention are disclosed in the prior art; and that the prior art relied upon, coupled with knowledge generally available in the art at the time of the invention, must contain some suggestion or incentive that would have motivated the skilled artisan to modify a reference or combined references. *In re Fine*, 5 U.S.P.Q.2d 1596, 1598 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In Re Wilson*, 165 U.S.P.Q. 494, 496 (C.C.P.A. 1970); *Amgen v. Chugai Pharmaceuticals Co.*, 927 U.S.P.Q.2d, 1016, 1023 (Fed. Cir. 1996).

The Examiner asserts that Takahara discloses a method of cutting off (employing laser) the TFT and the pixel electrode from each other for the purpose of changing a white point pixel defect to a black point pixel. The Examiner asserts that cutting off the TFT and the pixel electrode from each other implies that the pixel electrode is cut in the vicinity of the contact (i.e. source or drain electrode) connecting an electrode of the TFT to pixel electrode. Applicant respectfully traverses.

First, Takahara does not teach or suggest every limitation of the claims. Claims 1 and 5 include the following limitation: "a part of the pixel electrode is cut by a laser in the

YKI-0080
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vicinity of the contact connecting an electrode of the thin film transistor to the pixel electrode to separate the contact from the pixel electrode and to thereby darken the corresponding pixel." Takahara only describes that the thin film transistor is either destroyed or separated from the pixel electrode, and does not teach or suggest cutting a part of the pixel electrode in the vicinity of the contact. In particular, Takahara describes that the YAG laser light directly destroys the TFT 155, which cuts off the TFT 155 and the pixel electrode 14 from each other.

Moreover, claims 1 and 5 have also been amended to clarify the significance of the contact. Thus, claim 1 also includes the following limitation: "a pixel electrode is formed on an insulating layer which is provided on an electrode of the thin film transistor, and the electrode of the thin film transistor and the pixel electrode are connected via a contact formed through the insulating layer." As such, claims 1 and 5 clarify that the electrode of the thin film transistor and the pixel electrode are connected via a contact and it is the part of the pixel electrode in the vicinity of the contact that is cut by a laser. Takahara does not teach or suggest those limitations.

Moreover, obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988); *In re Jones*, 958 F.2d 347, 21 USPQ2d 1941 (Fed. Cir. 1992); MPEP § 2143.01. In this case, there is no teaching in Takahara that would lead one skilled in the art to produce the claimed invention. In fact, Takahara teaches away from Applicants' claimed limitations because Takahara specifically teaches to destroy the thin film transistor.

Claims 1 and 5 are patentable over Takahara. In addition, claims 2-4 include all of the limitations of claim 1 and claims 6-8 include all of the limitations of claim 5; thus, for the reasons stated above, claims 2-4 and 6-8 are patentable over Takahara. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections as to claims 1-8 be withdrawn.

In addition, attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application. The attached page is captioned "Version with Markings to Show Changes Made."

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicant's attorney hereby authorizes that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 06-1130.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED UP VERSION TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claim 1 in "marked up" format, as follows:

1. (Marked up/Amended) A method for darkening a pixel by darkening a defective pixel on a display for controlling the application of a voltage to a corresponding pixel electrode by a thin film transistor disposed for each pixel, wherein:

a pixel electrode is formed on an insulating layer which is provided on an electrode of the thin film transistor, and the electrode of the thin film transistor and the pixel electrode are connected via a contact formed through the insulating layer; and

a part of the pixel electrode is cut by a laser in the vicinity of the contact connecting an electrode of the thin film transistor to the pixel electrode to separate the contact from the pixel electrode and to thereby darken the corresponding pixel.

5. (Marked up/Amended) A display device for controlling, by the thin film transistor disposed for each pixel, the application of a voltage to a corresponding pixel electrode, wherein:

a pixel electrode is formed on an insulating layer which is provided on an electrode of the thin film transistor, and the electrode of the thin film transistor and the pixel electrode are connected via a contact formed through the insulating layer; and

a part of the pixel electrode is cut by a laser in the vicinity of the contact connecting an electrode of the thin film transistor to the pixel electrode to separate the contact from the pixel electrode and to thereby darken the corresponding pixel.

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